

THE COUNTY SCOOP

GALLATIN COUNTY

August 1, 2009

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Gallatin County Mental Health Local Advisory Council (MHLAC) was formally created on July 24, 2001. The purpose of the MHLAC is to assist in strengthening public mental health services in the local community and to provide input and recommendations to the Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council and the Service Area Authority serving the community. This council, which at times has up to 20 members, works diligently to identify service gaps in both adult and child areas, analyzes and discusses local problems with serviced providers, advocacy groups, public officials and the general public, assesses the effectiveness of local mental health services and suggests ways of making those services available more effective, serve as a catalyst and facilitator in solving local mental health service problems, as well as educate the local community on mental health issues.

The creation of this council followed many months and even years of dedicated efforts by those involved with individuals and family members of those suffering with mental illness. Gallatin County was found greatly lacking in services for these folks and even to date many of those in need of help have had to travel elsewhere in the state to receive needed care. The MHLAC assisted in demonstrating the need for crisis stabilization services in Gallatin County and in 2005 the Gallatin Mental Health Center responded to that need and opened the Hope House. The Hope House was originally a 3 bed facility (expanded to 5 beds) that housed those in crisis for short-term stabilization. This facility eliminated some of the transportation of those in crisis to the State Hospital. However, there the need has continued to grow and while the Hope House filled on niche, it does not provide any secure beds for those who may need to be held involuntarily or those with mental illness that have also committed a crime.

More recently, the Gallatin County Commission in conjunction with the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, Gilhousen Foundation and the Western Montana Mental Health Association have teamed together to build a new Hope House—one that will have a greater number of beds including secure beds. This facility will provide a great relief to law enforcement and their travels to and from the State Hospital, as well as provide an opportunity for those suffering from mental illness to receive treatment in their own community with friends and family nearby to assist in that process.

All of this can be greatly attributed to the efforts of the MHLAC. A HUGE thank you goes out to the members of this board, both voting and “advocacy” members, for their time, energy and dedication to help those in need, the families of those suffering, as well as our community at large. The tireless efforts of the council members is to be applauded!

MHLAC meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month in the Community Room from 12-1, all are welcome to attend. If you have any questions regarding this council or are interested in serving in any capacity, please call Glenda at 582-3027. There are both appointed and advocacy positions available.

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CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE: For sale, women's Trek mountain bike, purchased last year, barely ridden. \$200 OBO, no reasonable offer refused. Call 580-2267 if interested.

FOR SALE: Brand New Marlin .45-70 Guide Gun, lever action, never fired, 1-box ammo, custom fiber optic front site \$500. Call: extension 3757.

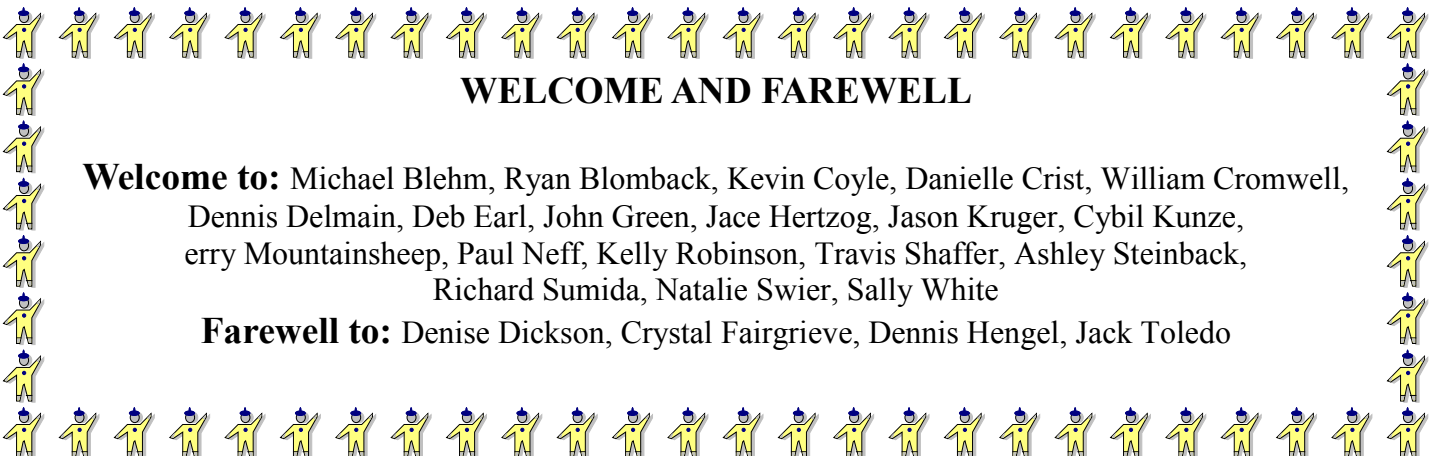
MONTHLY MUSING It's Summer! Soak it in!

I don't know who decided tan skin was more attractive in our culture, but it's a bad idea. We've recently heard how bad tanning beds can be--as lethal as arsenic, mustard gas, or cigarettes? Hot! That takes fake'n bake off the table, so to speak. If it's the heat that's part of the "bonus" of getting tan, that leaves going outside, into the sunlight. Now, the sun's good, sure. It gives us vitamin D, and also happens to be the reason we can inhabit this big blue planet.

Aren't we lucky? However, you know what they say about too much of a good thing....

That's why there's sunscreen (thank you, science!). It keeps the sun from frying your skin and developing melanoma, one of the deadliest forms of cancer. And if the cancer part doesn't scare you, like it very well should, there's also the humdrum skin damage it causes. You look older than you are, which is extra cool these days....when you're in high school maybe.

Honestly, if you've seen There's Something About Mary, you'll remember her crispy housemate, Magda. If you're not wearing sunscreen and you spend lots of time outside, you'll end up looking just like her. Is that what you really want? That's why, for the sake of everyone who has to look at you, you should wear sunscreen. (And remember, reapply after 2 hours of exposure, or lots of time in the water)



WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Welcome to: Michael Blehm, Ryan Blomback, Kevin Coyle, Danielle Crist, William Cromwell, Dennis Delmain, Deb Earl, John Green, Jace Hertzog, Jason Kruger, Cybil Kunze, Erry Mountainsheep, Paul Neff, Kelly Robinson, Travis Shaffer, Ashley Steinback, Richard Sumida, Natalie Swier, Sally White

Farewell to: Denise Dickson, Crystal Fairgrieve, Dennis Hengel, Jack Toledo



2009 Gallatin County Fair

WHEW ... the Fair Planning Committee spends the better part of a year planning and organizing the County Fair to provide family fun and entertainment to local and surrounding communities ... and in just five long days, it's OVER! The Fair was a great success this year with attendance up about ten percent from last year. Cotton candy sticking to smiling faces, laughter and screams from the carnival rides makes the amount of preparation time all worth it! The Fair is still one of the most affordable family events in Bozeman.

There's nothing quite like the sights and sounds of the Fair and better yet, the wonderful foods found only at the Fair. The weather cooperated bringing warm days and cool nights. Adults young and matured, children and even family pets could be seen throughout the grounds. Exhibit buildings were packed with photography, arts and crafts, foods, needlework, flowers and group projects displaying ribbons for different placement in competition. The barns were loaded with horses, rabbits, pigs, ducks, cows and even weird looking non-typical chickens. Special events were well attended and enjoyed by all. The petting zoo, carnival and performances by "comedian hypnotist – Michael Mezmer" were all time favorites, along with the rodeo, mud bogs and the Ringling 5.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Jennifer Blossom, Tanya Arrington, Nathaniel Pehl, Kim Buchanan, Anita Malmquist, Nick Borzak and Price Klaas who so graciously put in very long hours auditing the Fair gates. Another SPECIAL THANK YOU to other county employees who stepped up during my cries for gate help or assisted with open class entries or other needed tasks during the Fair; Commissioner Joe Skinner, Vickie Johnson, Sandy Schnurbusch, Jennifer Brandon, Debbie Ehlert, Blair and Glenda Howze, Crystal Turner, Cynde Hertzog, Amy Waring, Charlotte Mills, Rosemary Perry, Melissa Rivnie and Maureen Exley (and any others accidentally overlooked). Credit and many thanks to Fairgrounds staff who put in very, very long hours to help insure that the Fair moved along as scheduled.

Fair Board members who went above and beyond to help with the Fair were Dennis Farnham and Linda Warner. Dennis put in very long hours assisting the auditors to and from the gates insuring their safety and providing cold beverages and snacks to all the gate workers. Linda spent much of her spare time painting seat numbers on the grandstand and helped with the Bozeman Roundup VIP.

Another big thank you to Big Sky Western Bank employees and the Breakfast Optimists Club for providing the vast majority of workers on the numerous gate shifts. There are many, many, many volunteers who spend numerous hours helping with the Fair ... Another special "THANK YOU" to those because without you, the Fair would not be possible.

Please visit the Fairgrounds website to see winning results for all the contests and Fair photos at www.gallatincountyfair.org. The Fairgrounds newsletter is published the last Friday of every month. Go to www.gallatincountyfairgrounds.org to view or subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

DUI MYTHS

Alcohol myth #1

I stopped drinking an hour ago, so I am fine now. OR, How can you arrest me for DUI while I am driving to work at 6 am. I went to bed at midnight and haven't had anything to drink since.

If you were 0.17 at midnight you would still be a 0.08 at 6 am. You burn off alcohol at the rate of 0.015 % per hour.

REMEMBER to Drink Responsibly and learn the facts, Gallatin County wants you to be SAFE!

**The Gallatin County Commissioners are pleased to introduce
the three employees that were chosen as
“Employee of the Month” in JUNE.**

From the Clerk of District Court, Karen Cobb was chosen. Karen has worked in the Clerk of District Court's office as a Deputy Clerk for five years as of July 18th. Her primary job is getting jurors to show up for Jury Duty, which is a challenging job that she finds satisfying when it all works out. Her favorite thing about working for Gallatin County is getting to work with the three great District Court Judges. Before working for Gallatin County Karen spent fourteen years working in the municipal court system in New Jersey. Horses are Karen's passion. She did barrel racing for most of her life and more recently has taken up Cowboy Mounted shooting with her horse "Jimmy." Karen is married to Bobby and her "child" is Quarter horse Jimmy. In the closing of her interview, Karen stated "This job is very challenging. Even working here starting my fifth year I learn something new every day and try to do the best I can at my job. There is so much to learn."

Karen has worked for Karen was selected as Employee of Month after her nomination by a co-worker. Karen is known for being the "go-to" person for passports and is very well versed in the many different aspects of them. She takes pride in being an expert in this area and readily teaches and assists others with them when needed. Karen is also extremely knowledgeable and proficient in areas of probate and juries. Her co-worker stated that she is awesome to work with! **Thank you, Karen, for being a great employee for Gallatin County and the Clerk of District Court. You are a valuable addition to our system!**

From the Clerk & Recorder's Office, Mary Miller was chosen. Mary began her career with Gallatin County in the Motor Vehicle Department November 1197. She was there until 1999 when she moved to the Clerk & Recorder's Election Department until April 2000. She took a short hiatus and went elsewhere until July 2000 when she was rehired as a Clerk to the Commission through the Clerk & Recorder's Office. Mary stated that she likes the diversity of the position that she holds now which includes helping the public, taking the minutes for Commission meetings, and working with all of the other departments. She appreciates that it isn't a "humdrum" job of sitting in front of the computer all day. Mary stated in her interview, "I would like to take this opportunity to also say that having an understanding boss makes all the difference in a job. Thanks Char for making our jobs more enjoyable!" All the great friends that she has made throughout the years is Mary's favorite thing about working for Gallatin County. Before coming to work for Gallatin County Mary worked for 11 years as the Office Manager for a steel/hardware/automotive store. Prior to that she was a housewife and worked for the Lewis & Clark County Justice of the Peace. Mary stated that it has been about two and a half years since she had any "real" free time since she began helping raise her very busy granddaughter, Hannah, full time. Mary stated that "She is one of the greatest jobs of my life so missing out on free time as well as sleep is worth every moment." Mary has been married to Steve for 32 years and has two grown sons Jesse and Mike, granddaughter Hannah, two dogs and one fish.

Mary was nominated by a fellow employee for her help during the General Election in November. It was noted that she remained calm and capable amidst the chaos. She has also been an outstanding trainer for others learning to take the Commission minutes and answering countless questions, many times, with infinite patience. "She is a very, very excellent co-worker." **Thank you, Mary, for your many years service to Gallatin County. You are a valuable asset to our system and we appreciate all that you do!**



JULY Employees of the Month to be Featured Next Month



CONGRATULATIONS

Gallatin County Volunteers Team!!

AND

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED

TEAM PARTICIPANTS:

Dee Dee Simon—Health Dept
Crystal Turner-Commissioner's office
Frank Smith—911
Jenny Connelley—GIS
Kaitlyn Connelley-Family member
Wendy Connelley-Family member
Sarah Barutha-Friend
Nichole Floener—Friend
Ann Seitel-Friend
Leola Schultz-Friend

Together with your help and donations, our team raised:

\$2,998.00

**AND KEPT SOMEONE ON
THE TRACK ALL NIGHT
LONG!!**

**This year's
Relay for Life**

Total :

\$55,268.71



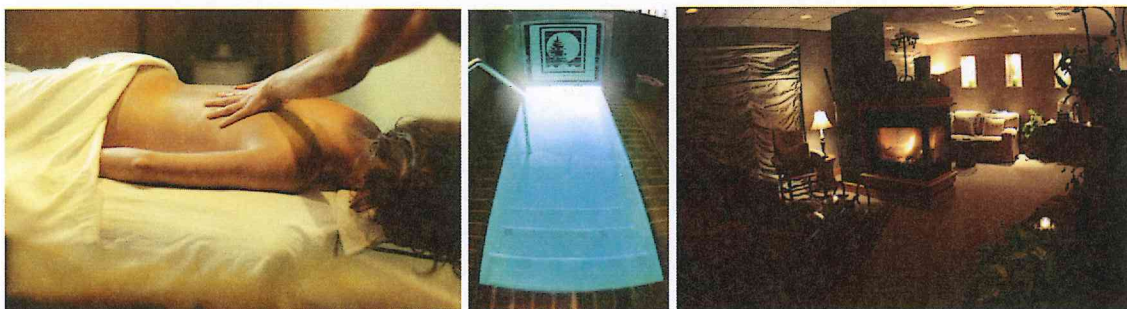
Exclusive Summer Special

**As a Moonlight Basin wellness partner,
Gallatin County employees receive
25% off a *Massage by Moonlight*.**

This 50 minute massage is created by your therapist based upon your needs and preferences incorporating your choice of aromatherapy oil and complimented with our signature foot polish.

With your treatment, you can enjoy all of Moonlight Spa's amenities for the entire day:

- Heated outdoor pool
- Waterfall hot tub
- Fitness area
- Herbal steam room
- "The Sanctuary" lounge
- Locker rooms



Call the Moonlight Spa at 406-993-7700 to make your reservation today.

Please mention this offer when booking (employment status subject to verification); offer valid through September 30, 2009.